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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,476	02/08/2002	Ichiro Hamada	SONYJP 3.0-210	9957

530                      7590                      06/28/2005  
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EXAMINER

ELMORE, JOHN E

ART UNIT                      PAPER NUMBER

2134

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No. 09/976,476	Applicant(s) HAMADA, ICHIRO	
Examiner John Elmore	Art Unit 2134	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2001.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2001 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-9 have been examined.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)** as being anticipated by Dierke (US 5,918,205).

**Regarding claim 1**, Dierke discloses an information processing device comprising:

a decoder (18) operable to decode encrypted data (audio decoder 18; Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 36-37 and 57-63);

a judging unit (14) operable to judge whether said encrypted data has been properly decoded (audio core module 14 detects errors in decoding and sends error signal to audio host module 12; Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 39-45); and

an output stop unit (20) operable to stop the output of data from said decoder to a subsequent processing step when it is judged by said judging unit that said encrypted data has not been properly decoded (AND gate 20 stops signal from decoder 18 upon activation of CONCEAL control signal from audio host 12 in response to decoding error

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signal received from audio core module 14 when audio has not been properly decoded; Fig. 3; col. 1, 43-51; col. 3, lines 43-45; col. 4, lines 6-13).

**Regarding claim 2**, Dierke teaches all the limitations of claim 1, and further teaches an output unit operable to output to said subsequent processing step data indicating that said data output from said decoder is invalid when the output of said data from said decoder is stopped by said output stop unit (CONCEAL control signal from audio host 12 indicates that output from said decoder is invalid for subsequent processing; col. 4, lines 6-13).

**Regarding claim 3**, Dierke teaches all the limitations of claim 1, and further teaches that when said judging unit judges that said encrypted data has been properly decoded after the output of said data from said decoder has been stopped by said output stop unit, the operation of said output stop unit is canceled after a predetermined time has elapsed, whereby the output of said data from said decoder is resumed (if no further errors are detected, output of decoder is resumed to normal operation after a time period equal to the predetermined pulse width of the CONCEAL signal; col. 4, line 67, through col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 30-33).

**Regarding claims 4-9**, these are a method version (claims 4-6) and recording medium version (claims 7-9) of the claimed device above (claims 1-3), wherein all limitations have been addressed. Therefore, for reasons applied above, such claims also are anticipated.

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**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Elmore whose telephone number is 571-272-4224. The examiner can normally be reached on M 10-8, T-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Morse can be reached on 571-272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JE

David Y. Jung  
Primary Examiner



6/25/08